



**State of Illinois**  
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## **Replacement of Torrence Avenue Bridge Begins in November**

**CHICAGO** – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced today that construction will begin in November on a total replacement of the Torrence Avenue bridge over the Grand Calumet River bridge in Chicago. The new bridge is anticipated to be finished and open in Summer 2017.

The existing bridge, approximately one mile south of 130<sup>th</sup> Street, was closed for emergency repairs in May after a routine inspection revealed one of the main truss members had deteriorated and was no longer safe. Subsequent evaluations determined more extensive repairs were required and available funding would be better spent on a long-term solution.

The bridge replacement already was included in IDOT's FY2016-21 Proposed Highway Improvement Program at a cost of \$13 million.

The current detour will remain in place until the project is complete. Northbound traffic is detoured east on Sibley Boulevard, north on Burnham Avenue, northwest on Brainard Avenue and west on 130th Street to reconnect with Torrence Avenue. Southbound traffic is following the reverse route.

The new structure will replace a steel truss bridge built in 1938. The new bridge will have a more modern style and design, with a multiuse path on the east side of the bridge, as well as standard sidewalk on the west side, to better accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits and be on the alert for workers and equipment.

Visit [www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/Torrence-Over-Grand-Calumet](http://www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/Torrence-Over-Grand-Calumet) for more information on the project.

Click [here](#) to find details on other construction projects in IDOT's District 1. Updates on the impacts to traffic are available at [www.travelmidwest.com](http://www.travelmidwest.com).